

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1, 3-13 and 15 are canceled.

Claims 17 and 18 are amended.

Claims 2, 14, 16, 17 and 18 are currently in the case.

Claims 2, 14, 16, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Namely the phraseology employed in claims 17 and 18 to describe the spring and its location was object to by the examiner. The examiner pointed out that the specification and drawings do not support the recitation that the spring surrounds a portion of the flow control valve.

Claims 17 and 18 are amended and are submitted herewith for entry. Claims 17 and 18 now include recitation of a rod element between the actuator element (claim 17) / plunger (claim 18) and the control valve. The spring is properly recited as being "about said rod element" (claim 17) and "disposed to surround a portion of said rod element" (claim 18). It is believed this amendment of claims 17 and 18 overcomes the rejection.

Claims 2, 14, 16, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Namely the description of the plunger element rigidly secured to the second end of the control valve was objected to by the examiner.

While Applicants believe it is technically correct to make the statement that the two elements are rigidly secured, claims 17 and 18 are amended to include a rod element as was in the described embodiment of the specification to provide an interconnection between the actuator element (claim 17) / plunger (claim 18) and the control valve. It is believed the amendment of claims 17 and 18 overcomes the rejection and should be entered.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC § 112 second paragraph for being indefinite. The words "against axial displacement relative to said housing" in describing the seating of the spring were in error. The claim is corrected in this amendment. The spring is recited in claim 18 as "having said first end seated against said housing and said second end seated against said plunger". It is believed that the amendment of claim 18 overcomes the rejection.

By the foregoing amendments to the claims of the subject application, Applicants believe they have overcome all the examiner's rejections stated in the aforementioned Final Office Action. Accordingly, this amendment complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.116 and its entry is earnestly solicited. Upon entry of this amendment, the examiner is requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections, allow the claims and pass the case to issue.

If the examiner believes that a telephone interview is appropriate to resolve any outstanding issues, he is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the direct number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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